

To the Chairman

and Members of the Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to present to you my tenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District.

In estimating the Birth and Death rate, I am taking the population at 6,143 as given by the Registrar General.

BIRTHS.

The total number of Births registered was 136, 72 males, and 64 females, 5 of which were illegitimate, 2 males, 3 females, rate per 1,000, 22.1. These figures show an increase over 1919 of 40 births, 17 males, 23 females.

DEATHS.

The number of Deaths registered in the District was 81, 34 males, 47 females, giving a rate per thousand 13.1, an increase of 5 over the preceding year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The cause of death in infants under one year, is as follows:—Bronchitis-pneumonia, Intestinal Haemorrhage, Premature Birth, Diarrhea, Anti-partum Shock, Atelectasis pulmonali, and one infant found in the river Lune. 8 deaths were registered, giving a rate per 1,000 births of 58.

In my experience, Infants in your District are well cared for, no case of neglect having come under my notice.

PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Epidemic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Rate of each under 1 year per 1,000 birth
1920.	22.1	13.1	Nil	0.48	58.
1919.	15.5	12.8	0.33	0.67	104.
Mean of 10 years.					
1910-1920.	16.7	11.7	0.37	0.49	68.
Increase or Decrease in 1920 on					
Previous year. ..	+ 6.6	+0.3	-0.33	-0.19	-46.
10 years Average.	+5.4	+1.4	-0.37	-0.01	-10.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 7 cases of Infectious Disease reported last year, all of which were Scarlet Fever, and admitted to the Isolation Hospital. The contact of one case was imported from an outside source, the remaining six cases occurred at a farm. All were of a mild type.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There are sundry improvements being carried out at the hospital, which in my opinion will be amply sufficient for the number of patients usually treated there, and also for the comfort of the Nurses.

The improvements are as follows:—

A Bathroom, Lavatory basin and w.c. inside, connected with a new Sewerage System. Added to this an ample supply of hot water will be obtainable. The water supply is at present derived from a well, which will be utilized in filling a tank, from which the Cylinder will automatically be supplied. The Cylinder will be useful in airing clothes and for general heating. The general utility of your Hospital may be gauged by the fact that only one mortality has occurred there during the last ten years, and I have reason to believe that the danger of the spread of Scarlet Fever in your District has greatly lessened.

GUARDIANS' INSTITUTION.

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The number of Vagrants admitted from March, 1920 to March 1921 was 807, as against 378 of the preceding year, showing an increase of 429. There have been four deaths, occurring over the age of 45, two Feeble minded Females, and two elderly inmates aged respectively 69 & 83, all of which may be classified under the heading of natural decay. Amongst the boys there was a serious case of pneumonia, which terminated favourably also several cases of troublesome skin irritation, which seemed to be constitutional, and was somewhat difficult to relieve. Chilblains were prevalent during the Winter, but speaking generally the health of the Institution has been satisfactory.

I would suggest the following improvements:-

(1) Central Heating. The house during the Winter months is cold, and a central distribution of heat would be more economical than the present arrangement.

(2) The Bathing accommodation on the boys side is inadequate, the bathroom being small and cramped, and barely sufficient standing room for three people.

I would suggest the old dayroom, which is now used as a lumber room, be converted into a bathroom and lavatory. It would not be expensive and would be of great benefit.

(3) The Tramp Ward also requires bringing up to date with regard to the general arrangement of the boys.

I would recommend, amongst the elder ones, the encouragement of games, which would be beneficial both morally and physically, the younger ones should take a daily walk, in fine weather, to somewhat relieve the monotony of walking about the grounds of the Institution.

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WATER SUPPLIES.

The Water supply, in your District, is good, and the remarks in my report for 1919, may be taken as an accurate description of the various Villages to which they refer.

A discussion has been before the Board, on several occasions, as to the water supplies of Arkholme, & Melling.

In the case of Arkholme the supply is ample throughout the year, and the trouble seems to be one of distribution.

The chief source of supply, in Melling, is from Wells, and in the case of three or four Cottages the supply has to be carried a considerable distance, the School being a case in point.

Last year I suggested a Filter should be placed in the School for the Children, during the summer months, this has not been done, and I would ~~xxxxx~~ ask the Board to press the matter, as it is important ~~xx~~ the Children should have a fresh supply of water to drink.

I am glad to be able again to state that no Zymotic disease has been traceable to water, and indeed your Whole District has been very free from infection during the past year.

SEWAGE

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The Sewage Schemes in the District have worked well, and no complaints have been brought under my notice, with regard to any of them excepting the Septic tanks at Caton, the filter beds of which should be renewed.

A third of the main Sewer in Hornby has been taken out and relaid, the level having been found to be defective, which consequently caused a good deal of silting up, choking the Sewer to a considerable extent. The new laid pipes are working well, but the remaining portion is still imperfect, and will require attention.

The emptying of Ashpits and Privies in the village of Hornby is not altogether satisfactory, and requires more regular Scavenging.

In the rest of the District the Scavenging has been well carried out,

COW SHEDS & DAIRIES.

The condition of the cowsheds and Dairies is fairly good, the chief defects being, want of light, ventilation, bad drainage, defective floors, and over heating. In the handling of milk, extreme cleanliness is necessary, and it is of vital importance that an ample supply of hot and cold water should be available where cows are kept.

HOUSING

The Councils Housing Scheme embraces the erection of 18 houses to meet the unsatisfied demand for houses, as follows:-

10. Houses at Caton

6. Houses at Halton.

2. -do- Hornby.

Land has been provisionally purchased as building sites at Halton, and Hornby, but difficulty has arisen with regard to the Agreement of a price for the land required at Caton, and the Council is negotiating for an alternating site at that place. Lay Outs have been approved, and House Plans have been submitted, and the Ministers approval has been given, so far as relates to the Schemes at Caton and Halton. The Hornby Plans have been returned to the Housing Commissioner with minor details amended at his request, but they have not yet been returned to the Council.

Instructions have been given to the getting out of the Quantities, and for the advertising for Tenders as soon as the work of completing the Quantities has been done.

It is understood that building operations will then depend on the Tenders being such as can be sanctioned by the Ministry, and upon the necessary Loans being forth coming.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully Yours,

BERKELEY J. ACHESON.

